



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

South Florida Operations Office
525 Ridgelawn Road
Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983 - 8101 Tele
(863) 983 - 8579 FAX

St. Lucie Lock Manatee Watch

Volunteer Description

St. Lucie Lock Manatee Watch Volunteer

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District, South Florida Operations Office (SFOO), would like to welcome you to the Corps Volunteer Program. As a volunteer, you will be performing the duties/responsibilities (listed below) of a Manatee Watcher at the St. Lucie Lock under the guidance of Corps Biologist Doug Harter, Manatee Program Coordinator (Clewiston), Volunteer Supervisor Angie Charles, Corps Biologist (Clewiston), Biologist Scientist II Suzanne Tarr, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) (St. Petersburg), and Marine Research Associate, Penny Husted, FWC (Tequesta). The Corps of Engineers greatly appreciates your volunteer efforts for collecting manatee-related photographic and environmental data using scientific methods. Thank you for choosing to volunteer with the Corps of Engineers. Any questions, comments, and/or concerns about the manatee watch program should be directed towards Corps Biologist Doug Harter (863) 983 – 8101 x 267.

QUALIFICATIONS

Anyone may apply to volunteer as a Manatee Watcher with the Corps of Engineers by completing a SFOO Volunteer Application. The Manatee Watcher position however, requires tact, courtesy, and the ability to deal with the general public. This volunteer position was established so that the USACE may better provide information concerning manatee behaviors.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Monitor the lock and dam area for manatees. The lock chamber will be monitored for manatees during lockages.

Manatee sightings will be documented on the provided data sheets. Sightings near the dam must include distance and exact location in relation to the dam.

The FWC camera and film will be utilized in photographing manatees.

Manatee related photographic, geo-spatial, biological, behavioral, and environmental data will be recorded on the data sheets provided by the FWC.

All data sheets and film will be submitted to the Manatee Program Coordinator or FWC representative for processing every second Friday. Photographic documentation should be obtained during primary photographing hours and during appropriate weather events (or other times as necessary to be determined by the FWC).

Dead or injured manatees will be reported to the lock tender on duty. The lock tender will report the manatee to the FWC following USACE protocol.

Be familiar with and abide by all USACE rules and regulations (EP 1165-2-316).

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Provide visitors with information concerning the Corps Recreation Areas and manatees. Answer information requests to the best of your knowledge. When in doubt refer the visitor to the ranger staff.

Report safety hazards and/or maintenance concerns to the ranger staff.

Report any compliance problems, vandalism, speeding, and similar disturbances to the ranger staff or local law enforcement officer.

Assist in emergency situations such as electrical blackouts, weather alerts, life threatening emergencies, etc.

Report all personal injury accidents and/or incidents to the volunteer supervisor and the ranger staff.

Wear the Volunteer Shirt and/or Volunteer Hat when volunteering with the USACE to identify yourself as a USACE Representative.

A little common sense goes a long way, so treat others as you would like to be treated.

All Corps recreation areas will be evacuated during a hurricane. All volunteer items should be mobile and ready to move in case of a hurricane.

Please do not engage in any physical or verbal confrontations with the public.

Volunteer hours need to be recorded on the Volunteer Service Record (ENG Form 4882-R) and submitted to the Volunteer Supervisor by the end of each month.

All volunteer related incidental expenses should be recorded on the Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business Form and submitted to the Volunteer Supervisor for processing by the end of each month with your Volunteer Service Record.

The Volunteer Coordinator, Volunteer Supervisor, or the FWC may request additional duties to be performed in addition to the above listed duties/responsibilities at any time including general maintenance items, limited physical labor, assisting within the campground, rangers, biologists, and/or lock tenders, additional manatee reports or procedures, etc.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

There is no doubt that you will encounter rangers on a daily basis. These rangers may answer general questions that you may have concerning the recreation areas, rules and regulations, and the general area. Specific questions, comments, and/or concerns about the volunteer program should be directed towards the Volunteer Supervisor. Specific questions, comments, and/or concerns about manatees, environmental data reporting procedures, environmental data equipment, manatee reports and procedures should be directed towards Biologist Doug Harter. The Volunteer Supervisor is overseen by the Volunteer Coordinator and Supervisory Park Ranger. The Manatee Watch Program is overseen by the Chief, Field Operations and Readiness Section.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Manatee watch volunteers are required to volunteer 20 to 30 hours per week. A schedule will be developed between the volunteer, Corps of Engineers, and FWC on specific days and time to monitor for manatees. These days and times may change throughout the course of a day due to manatee sightings, lock schedules, and current/changing weather patterns. The FWC will provide a campsite with water, electric hook-ups, and access to a dump station at no charge to the volunteer. Volunteers will furnish their own transportation and camping equipment. All members of a Volunteer's immediate family are welcome to accompany him or her while volunteering.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

For all life-threatening emergencies please dial 9 – 1 – 1 to contact the local law enforcement agency, fire department, and ambulance.

After contacting 9 – 1 – 1, please contact the ranger staff concerning the accident/incident.

The following information should only be used in an emergency and should not be provided to visitors.

				Phone Numbers
Schedules:	Doug	Mon – Fri	7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.	(863) 983 – 8101 x 267
		Sat – Sun	Off	
	Angie	Mon – Fri	7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.	(863) 983 – 8101 x 236
		Sat – Sun	Off	
	Rob	Mon – Thurs	7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.	(941) 694 – 2582
		Fri – Sat	12:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	
		Sun – Mon	Off	

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

W.P. Franklin Visitor Center	South Florida Operations Office
1660 South Franklin Lock Road	525 Ridgelawn Road
Alva, FL 33920	Clewiston, FL 33440
(941) 694 – 2582 Tele	(863) 983 – 8101 Tele
(941) 694 – 2204 Fax	(863) 983 – 8579 Fax

Ortona Campground	(863) 675 - 8400
Ortona Lock	(863) 675 - 0616
St. Lucie Campground	(561) 287 - 1382
St. Lucie Visitor Center	(561) 219 - 4575
St. Lucie Lock	(561) 287 – 2665
W.P. Franklin Campground	(941) 694 - 8770
W.P. Franklin Lock	(941) 694 - 5451

EMERGENCY INFORMATION (continued)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida Marine Research Institute

Suzanne Tarr, Biological Scientist II
 100 Eighth Avenue S.E.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5095
 (727) 896 – 8626 Tele
 (727) 893 – 9176 Fax
 (727) 642 – 5750 Cell

Penny Husted, Marine Research Associate
 19100 SE Federal Highway
 Tequesta, FL 33469
 (561) 575 – 5408 Tele

Schedule: Suzanne Mon – Fri 7:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Bureau of Marine Enforcement	1-800-342-5367
Florida Highway Patrol	1-800-701-3212, * FHP
Poison Information Center	1-800-282-3171
U.S. Coast Guard	1-800-368-5647
Hazardous Material Spills	1-800-424-8802
Sheriff – Martin County	(561) 220 - 7000